

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A communication apparatus comprising:

facsimile communication means for transmitting
transmission information to a destination apparatus in
accordance with facsimile communication specifications;

electronic-mail communication means for
transmitting transmission information to a destination
apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail
specifications;

communication designating means for causing
transmission of the transmission information by
selecting either said facsimile communication means or
said electronic-mail communication means; and

security designating means for designating whether
the transmission information is confidential
information;

wherein if the transmission information has been
designated as being confidential information by said
security designating means, said facsimile communication
means transmits the transmission information to the
destination apparatus as is by facsimile transmission
when said facsimile communication means has been
designated by said communication designating means, and
said electronic-mail communication means encrypts the
transmission information and then sends it to the
destination apparatus by electronic mail when said

electronic-mail communication means has been designated by said communication designating means.

2. A computer program sequence for implementing functions described in claim 1.

3. A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 1.

4. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein if the destination apparatus possesses a private security function, said facsimile communication means transmits the transmission information by confidential communication utilizing this private security function when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means.

5. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein when the transmission information has been designated as being confidential information by said security designating means, said facsimile communication means checks to determine whether the destination apparatus possesses a private security function by inquiring as to whether the destination apparatus possesses the private security function when a communication path to the destination apparatus is formed.

6. A computer program sequence for implementing functions described in claim 5.

D,
et
D,

sub
D,
et
D,

7. A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 5.

5 8. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said security designating means makes a determination that the transmission information is confidential information when the fact that transmission is by confidential communication is designated.

10 9. The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the transmission information is document information that has been obtained by reading a document.

10. A communication method in a communication apparatus capable of selectively executing facsimile communication for transmitting transmission information to a
15 destination apparatus in accordance with facsimile communication specifications and electronic-mail communication for transmitting transmission information to a destination apparatus in accordance with electronic-mail specifications, said method comprising
20 the following steps in a case where the transmission information is transmitted to a destination apparatus as confidential information:

transmitting the transmission information to the destination apparatus as is by facsimile transmission
25 when communication is performed in accordance with facsimile communication; and

et D1
B3
end

encrypting the transmission information and then sending it to the destination apparatus by electronic mail when communication is performed in accordance with electronic-mail communication.

- 5
sub
B3
D1
11. A computer program sequence for implementing functions described in claim 10.
12. A computer-readable recording medium storing a computer program for implementing functions described in claim 10.

- 10
sub
B3
D1
13. The method according to claim 10, wherein if the destination apparatus possesses a private security function in a case where facsimile communication is performed, the transmission information is transmitted to a mailbox that utilizes this private security

- 15
function when the transmission information is transmitted as confidential information.

- sub
B3
D1
14. A computer program sequence for implementing functions described in claim 13.
15. A computer-readable recording medium storing a
20 computer program for implementing functions described in claim 13.

16. The method according to claim 13, wherein the transmission information is document information that has been obtained by reading a document.

sub
B3
D1